



Foreign Agricultural Service

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## **Mexico**

### **FAIRS Product Specific**

## **New Rule to Control Aflatoxins in Cereals (NOM-188-SSA1-2002)**

**2002**

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#### **Report Highlights:**

**In October 15, 2000, Mexico's Secretariat of Health published a new official rule to control aflatoxins in cereals for human and animal consumption. The cereals include rice, oats, barley, rye, corn, sorghum, triticale and wheat. This new rule will be effective 90 days after publication ( i.e., January 13, 2003). It is unlikely that this new rule will impact U.S. cereal exports.**

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Mexico [MX1], MX

**Introduction:** This report summarizes an official standard (NOM) published in Mexico's "*Diario Oficial*" (Federal Register) on October 15, 2002.

**Disclaimer:** This summary is based on a *cursory* review of the subject announcement and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests. In the event of a discrepancy or discrepancies between this summary and the complete regulation or announcement as published in Spanish, the latter shall prevail.

### **FAS/Mexico's Executive Summary:**

Mexico's Secretariat of Health (SSA) announced in Mexico's "*Diario Oficial*" (Federal Register) a new official standard, NOM-188-SSA1-2002, the purpose of which is to control aflatoxins in cereals for human and animal consumption. The cereals included in the new rule are rice, oats, barley, rye, corn, sorghum, triticale and wheat. It includes several sanitary specifications as well as sampling and testing methods.

**Title:** Mexican Official Standard, NOM-188-SSA-2002, Good and Services. Control of Aflatoxins in cereals for human and animal consumption. Sanitary specifications.

**Type of Regulation:** Final

### **Important Dates**

- 1. Publication Date:** October 15, 2002
- 2. Effective Date:** 90 days after publication (i.e., January 13, 2003)
- 3. Start of Public Comment Period:** N/A — Final Rule
- 4. End of Public Comment Period:** N/A — Final Rule

**Products Affected:** Cereals for human and animal consumption including rice, oats, barley, rye, corn, sorghum, triticale and wheat.

**Agency in Charge:** Health Secretariat (SSA)

### **Summary of the Major Points of NOM-188-SSA-2002**

This new official standard includes several sanitary specifications to control aflatoxins in cereals. The following measures are likely to be of particular note and interest to U.S. trade:

**a) Sanitary Specifications for Imported Cereals:** Point 5.1.1 of this new rule states that imported

cereals must be held to the requirements established in NOM-028-FITO-1995's reference section (see MX8126 & MX0055).

**b) Contaminants:** Regarding contaminants, point 5.3 specifies the following:

5.3.1 The total aflatoxin level of cereals should not exceed 20 µg/kg. Comment: Sources indicate that this new requirement is not expected to impact trade since the Federal Grain Inspection Service's (FGIS) requirement for aflatoxin is similar.

5.3.2 If concentrations reach between 21 and 300 µg/kg, the cereal can be fed to animals at the levels indicated in the following table:

Species	Purpose	Weight	Maximum Limit (µg/kg)
Poultry	Broilers	N/A	100
Hogs	For Fattening	Between 25 and 45 kg	100
		More than 45 kg	200
	For Reproduction	N/A	100
Ruminates	Mature and destined for reproduction	N/A	100
	In the final stages of fattening	N/A	300

**c) Sampling:** The requirement that imported cereals must have an official certification has been eliminated; this certification had been required in the previous proposed standards (see MX 0101). The new rule states that imported cereals must be held to the requirements established in NOM-028-FITO-1995 reference section (point 7.1) .

**d) Equivalence with Mexican and International Rules:** This rule is not equivalent to any Mexican or international standard.

**FAS/Mexico Comment:** It is unlikely that the new rule will impact U.S. grain exports, due to the elimination of some controversial measures originally contained in the proposed rule (see MX 0101). Moreover, the requirement for aflatoxin established for this new measure is similar to that required by FGIS. Lastly, the new rule indicates that imported cereals should comply with the requirements stated in the NOM-028. It is our understanding that U.S. exporters have been complying with this regulation without problems. Therefore, this NOM is not viewed as adversely impacting U.S. cereal trade.

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*FAS Mexico Web Site:* We are available at <http://www.atomexico.gob.mx> or visit our headquarter's home page at <http://www.fas.usda.gov> for a complete selection of FAS' worldwide agricultural reporting.

*Useful Mexican Web Sites:* Mexico's equivalent of the Department of Agriculture (SAGARPA) can be found at [www.sagarpa.gob.mx](http://www.sagarpa.gob.mx) and Mexico's equivalent of the Department of Commerce (Secretaria de Economia) can be found at [www.se.gob.mx](http://www.se.gob.mx) These web sites are mentioned for the readers' convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with the information contained on the mentioned sites.